

## JUNE, 1877.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, 12th June. The Right Revd. the Bishop of Tasmania in the chair.

The Hon. Secretary (Dr. Agnew) brought forward the usual returns for the past month, viz. :—

1. Number of visitors to the Museum, 1,100.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 3,371.
3. Seeds received at Gardens—From Mr. Piesse, 14 packets of Flower seeds. From His Excellency the Governor, seeds of the Mesquit, or Screw Bean (*Prosopis pubescens*). From Mr. J. Dawson, 16 packets seeds from Fiji. From Messrs. Huber, France, seeds of *Jacaranda mimosafolia*. From H. M. Hull, Esq., Secretary to the Philadelphia Exhibition Commissioners, 25 packets seeds.
4. Plants supplied for public places :—For planting grounds at Hospital and Public Buildings, Launceston, 176 plants, and collection of bulbs. For grounds of St. Mark's Church, Kangaroo Point, 100 plants. For the Public Recreation Ground, New Norfolk, 100 plants. For the Hobart Town Cemetery, 180 plants.
5. Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during May.
6. Books and Periodicals received.
7. Presentations to Museum.

*Meteorological Returns.*

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott Esq.—Table for May.
2. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge Esq.—Ditto.
3. Mount Nelson, table for May; Swan Island, ditto for April.—From the Marine Board.
4. Melbourne, from R. J. L. Ellery, Esq.—Printed tables for October 1876.
5. Adelaide, from C. Todd Esq.—Ditto ditto for November and December, 1876.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—

1. From E. D. Swan, Esq.—36 North and 15 South American Birds; prepared, mounted, and named.
2. From Wm. Pitt, Esq.—Three tertiary fossils, viz., two specimens of a species of Oyster, and a Crab, from Brighton, West Coast of New Zealand.
3. From Mr. R. F. Archer.—Six samples of Tin Ore, from Mount Bischoff.
4. From Mr. F. Wise.—Specimens of Copper Pyrites, from Mount Maurice.
5. From the Rev. R. E. Dear.—Portions of a block (English Elm), and a spar (Celery-topped Pine), from the Priscilla, completely riddled by the Teredo during 11 months' submersion near Huon Island.
6. From Mr. W. E. Shoobridge.—Specimen of Sulphate of Magnesia, from caves near New Norfolk.
7. From Mr. R. M. Johnston.—A Pouched Lamprey (*Geotria Allporti*).
8. From Dr. E. L. Crowther.—An Australian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). A Water Snake (*Pelamus bicolor*).
9. From H. M. Hull, Esq., Secretary to the Philadelphia Exhibition Commissioners.—Seven samples of American Wool, and seven ditto of Cinchona and other barks.
10. From Mr. J. Bidencope.—Stereotype mould and portion of casting as used in printing the *Sydney Morning Herald* newspaper.

11. From Mr. G. W. Rex.—A Potato, pierced in two directions by the underground stems of the Couch Grass (*Triticum repens*).

The following additions to the Library were reported :—

1. From the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.—Two pamphlets—"The Progress and Resources of New South Wales," by C. Robinson, Esq.; and "Tobacco: its Culture and the Curing of its Leaf," by Aug. Morris, Esq.
2. From H. M. Hull, Esq.—Three pamphlets, viz.,—"Contributions to the Flora of Iowa,"  
"Regulations of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society,"  
and "Prizes for Arboriculture offered by the Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture."
3. From H. C. Russell, Esq.—"The Climate of New South Wales."
4. From the Meteorological Office, London.—"Charts of Meteorological Data for nine 10° Squares of the Atlantic, with Remarks."

In reference to a question which had been brought forward at a late meeting of the Society, namely, the alleged sanitary influence of the Blue Gum tree (*Eucalyptus globulus*), Dr. Agnew mentioned that certain experiments had been recently conducted at home by Mr. C. T. Kingzett, F.C.S., etc., which might possibly assist in throwing some light on the subject. In a lecture delivered before the Society of Arts in February last, Mr. Kingzett showed that the slow oxidation of certain turpentine, with which the essential oil of the Blue Gum is virtually identical in chemical composition, give rise to two very active sanitary products; one, the peroxide of hydrogen, well-known as a most potent disinfectant; the other camphoric acid, a powerful antiseptic. Now, as the free elimination of these agents was continually going on wherever the *Eucalyptus* was cultivated it was clear nothing could be more conducive to the destruction of malaria and the consequent preservation of health, and hence the recognised value of this tree in the malarial regions of the Campagna near Rome, and in the vicinity of the Douro in Spain. It was right to add, however, that during the discussion which followed the reading of Mr. Kingzett's paper, a learned writer on sanitary science, Dr. Thudichum, thought that the beneficial action which the *Eucalyptus* was supposed to exert, was more probably due to its sucking up the superabundant moisture of the ground and thus destroying malaria.

The Rev. W. W. SPICER suggested that the tree might act as a valuable sanitary agent in both ways.

Mr. F. ABBOTT, F.R.A.S., read a lengthened paper on "The Modern Progress of Astronomy." Being necessarily a *résumé* the paper did not invite or call for discussion.

The Rev. W. W. SPICER, F.R.M.S., read a paper "On the occurrence of 'Ergot' on Rye-grass."

Mr. W. E. BAYNTON, of Kingston, (who furnished the specimen referred to in the paper), in reply to a question stated that hitherto none of his cattle had suffered from eating the diseased rye-grass, but this was probably due to the fact that as yet only a very small patch of the grass had become affected.

Sir JAMES WILSON was sure every one present would agree with him in thinking that not only this Society, but many others to which we have sent our Meteorological Tables, were much indebted to Mr. Abbott for his unwearying attention, extending over a period of about 30 years, to meteorological observation. No other member, he thought, had done more for the Society, and he had therefore much pleasure in proposing that our best thanks were due to Mr. Abbott not only for the paper on "The Modern Progress of Astronomy," which had just been read, but for all his past exertions in the cause of meteorology.

The CHAIRMAN in putting the motion observed it was happy for us, seeing that the Government had done so little for meteorology, that one of our members had been able to effect so much. The motion having passed, a "special vote of thanks" was accorded to Mr. E. D. Swan for his very valuable and acceptable donation; and, a vote of thanks having been also given to the Rev. W. W. Spicer, and the donors of the presentations, the proceedings terminated.